

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,464). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Lewis et al. discloses means for assembling and signaling billing information and caller-dialed-number information to a service provider in the voice channel during call setup to connecting carriers. The service provider is able to utilize the billing information and the caller-dialed-number information for making the decision to deny a call requesting the service information. This enables the service provider to limit services to only those callers for whom service fees can be charged to the caller's telephone bill. A local exchange performs digit analysis and translation before routing the call to the service provider. A local exchange carrier may translate a caller-dialed 7-digit 555 number into a ten-digit phantom number and then passes the call to the appropriate carrier assigned the ten-digit routing plan. It is determined whether an automatic number identification number is received during the process and, if so, call processing continues; if not, the call is blocked or terminated with an appropriate message.

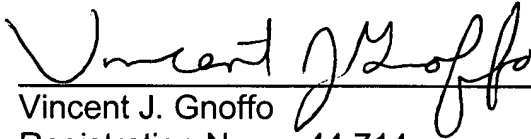
Lewis et al. neither discloses nor suggest the features of the claims as amended. Claim 1 as amended recites that "only calls having an automatic number identification associated therewith are acceptable for completion to the first number". Claim 5 as amended recites "determining that the first NXX call accepts only calls having an automatic number identification associated therewith". Claim 15 as amended recites a "processor to determine that the first number accepts only calls having automatic number identification associated therewith". Since Lewis et al. neither discloses nor suggests such features, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,148,070. Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer herewith, and therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,516,057. Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer herewith, and therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4224 if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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